

Immigration debate: Mixing everything up ***paints a distorted picture***

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At a glance

- In the current debate about the Chaos Initiative, figures are being mixed up, added up or used in an inappropriate context.
- Not all immigration is the same. The composition varies greatly depending on the control system and region of origin.
- Whoever lumps all types of migration together in an undifferentiated way is not doing justice to the claim of a serious debate.

On June 14, 2026, we will vote on whether Switzerland should write a rigid population cap into the constitution. The SVP's Chaos Initiative aims to limit population growth to 10 million people by 2050. Immigration is once again at the center of the debate, as it has contributed significantly to the increase in the permanent resident population in recent years. The closer the referendum date approaches, the more intense and emotional the debate becomes. This is a good thing, because decisions of such significance for Switzerland should and must be discussed seriously and examined from different angles. At the same time, this debate must be differentiated and based on correct figures. To this end, [economiesuisse](#) has published a new dossier policy in which questions relating to immigration are clarified objectively and based on the available data.</p></div>
<div data-bbox="162 382 775 407" data-label="Section-Header">
<h2>Immigration is not the same as immigration</h2>
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<div data-bbox="162 419 908 545" data-label="Text">
<p>In the current debate, figures are mixed up, added up or used in an inappropriate context. This leads to false conclusions. A prominent example is the consideration of immigration as a whole in order to derive statements regarding individual species or regions of origin. The suggestion is made: Only every second immigration is for gainful employment - the rest are primarily a burden on taxpayers. This distorted picture is problematic for several reasons:</p>
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<div data-bbox="162 573 741 599" data-label="Section-Header">
<h2>Mixing up immigration figures is dubious</h2>
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<div data-bbox="162 610 908 758" data-label="Text">
<p>Mixing up all types of migration is just one example of how an undifferentiated presentation can paint a distorted picture. In order to have a serious debate, we should know the most important figures relating to immigration. Then it becomes clear that the widespread narrative does not stand up to the facts. Immigration follows clear rules, fulfills different functions and is of central importance for the labor market in particular. Anyone who mixes everything up paints a distorted picture and contributes little to a constructive discussion.</p>
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